

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title at page 1, lines 1-2 with the following amended title:

TITLE: ~~"Method for cutting and removing underwater pipelines and apparatus for implementing this method"~~ METHOD FOR CUTTING AND REMOVING UNDERWATER PIPELINES AND APPARATUS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SAME

Please replace the heading at page 1, line 3 with the following amended heading:

DESCRIPTION FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 1 between lines 5 and 6:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 2 between lines 3 and 4:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replacement the paragraph at page 2, lines 4-5 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention ~~therefore~~ relates to a method for cutting and removing underwater pipelines, comprising the following steps:

Please insert the following heading on page 2 between lines 21 and 22:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading on page 3 between lines 7 and 8:

DETAIL DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 27 through page 8, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 14 shows the recovery unit 3 with which the cutting unit 4 is associated. The recovery unit 3 comprises an upper frame 603 consisting of two metal sheets 613 inside which two pulleys 633 for driving the haulage cable 826 of the unit are housed. Two brackets 653 extend from the sheets 613 and have a cross member 643 inserted between them; a plate 623 is connected onto one of the sheets and has, hingeably mounted thereon, two projecting arms 203 which are coupled to two hydraulic jacks 213 which at one end are connected to the plate 623, while the stem 223 of each of the jacks 213 is connected to each of the arms 203. A hook member 253 is positioned at the free end of each of the arms 203 and is closed by a pin 243 which is coupled to an actuator 233 housed inside the arm 203. From the cross member 643 there extend the tie-rods 513 and 433 for supporting respectively the beam 503, associated with the box-shaped body 113 of the jaws 103, and the trapezium 403 which is in turn connected by means of the flanges 423 and the pin-~~433~~ 463 to the slider 413 inserted inside the guide 303. The slider is coupled with the screw 313 provided with the motor 323 shown in dot-dash lines in the figure; as can be seen from Figure 15, the slider 413 projects radially from a threaded bush 453 mating with the screw 313 and inserted in the guide 303.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 6-21 with the following amended paragraph:

The head-piece 202 is connected to the support base 302 of the guide unit 2 by means of the shaft 602, which is able to rotate, owing to the action of the motor 262 shown in Figure 17, through ~~90~~ 90° with respect to its vertical axis. The same shaft is arranged on the carriage 612 so as to be able to displace the head-piece 202 to the end of the support base directed towards the line section 40 to be cut. The guide unit 2, once the position of the pipeline 40 has been determined, is aligned with the said line using the water ejection nozzles 312, so as to allow both rotation and lateral displacements. A

substantially different function is that performed by the nozzles 422 and 423 positioned on the jaws 402 and intended mainly to remove the sediment from the line so as to favour both improved clamping of the jaws 402 and easier travel of the belts 502 when the unit 2 is displaced along the line 40. These nozzles 312, 422 and 432 are supplied by the pumping unit 322 inside which a seawater pump is housed. The tank 342, which is positioned on the opposite side of the support base 302 of the unit 2, contains instead an oil pump with suitable actuating means (both not shown in the figures); the oil, which is supplied at a pressure of about 200 bars, provides the energy to the different functions inside the guide unit 2.